

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01

IO-03 OES-01 SY-02 DODE-00 CIAE-00 /040 W

----- 104995

P 291015Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9647

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1410

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SUPPLY OF ADDITIONAL NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION

EQUIPMENT TO GUB

REF: (A) RANGOON 0800 (B) RANGOON 1375

1. SUMMARY: GUB HAS REQUESTED CERTAIN ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR USE IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION WORK. I RECOMMEND FAVORABLE ACTION AND REQUEST APPROPRIATE NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AMBASSADOR VANCE'S MARCH 28 CONVERSATION WITH COLONEL TIN OO (REF A), THE LATTER EXHIBITED A KEEN INTEREST IN THE POTENTIAL APPLICATION TO THE GUB'S NARCOTICS CONTROL TASKS OF VARIOUS ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY SUCH ITEMS AS MIGHT FACILITATE SPOTTING, INTERDICTION, AND CAPTURE OF TRAFFICKERS' CARAVANS. AMB. VANCE RESPONDED TO COLONEL TIN OO'S INTEREST (A) BY INVITING THE GUB TO DESPATCH TO THE U.S. A TEAM OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT FOR FIRSTHAND OBSERVATION OF THE AMERICAN EFFORT, WITH STRESS ON EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS (THIS VISIT HAS NOW BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JUNE-JULY; SEE REF B), AND (B) BY EXPRESSING ON BEHALF OF CONCERNED AGENCIES OF THE USG, A WILLINGNESS TO CONFIDE ON THEIR MERITS ANY GUB REQUESTS FOR ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT CLEARLY RELEVANT TO THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF THE U.S. AND BURMA IN NARCOTICS CONTROL.

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3. COLONEL TIN OO, ON BEHALF OF THE GUB, HAS NOW SUBMITTED A

LIST OF ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD MEET PRIORITY NEEDS OF THE GUB IN ITS NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT, AND WHICH WOULD, IN THE GUB'S OPINION, ADVANCE THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES BY STRENGTHENING GUB ANTI-NARCOTICS TRAFFIC CAPABILITIES. THE EMB-ASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE USG UNDERTAKE TO SUPPLY TO THE GUB THE ITEMS ON THE LIST GIVEN US BY COLONEL TIN OO, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITIES.

4. FOLLOWING ARE THE ITEMS REQUESTED BY GUB:

(A) ONE FAIRCHILD-HILLER F-27J ORUYH-227 AIRCRAFT, WITH STANDARD COMMUNICATION AND NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING FULL EQUIPMENT FOR IFR FLIGHT AND WITH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND ARC-51/ARA-50 SYSTEM (OR ITS EQUIVALENT) INSTALLED, PLUS INITIAL SPARES. C-47A AIRCRAFT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE BUT FOR GOOD REASONS (SEE PARA BELOW) GUB STRONGLY PREFERS F-27.

(B) COLLINS 718U-5 SSB AIRBORNE RADIO SET INSTALLED IN THE AIRCRAFT.

(C) FOR USE BY PATROLS TO BE INSERTED OR INFILTRATED INTO AREAS WHERE TRAFFICKERS OR REFINERIES ARE OPERATING, 20 EA HF SSB RADIO SETS AN/URC-87 (V) WITH SNAP-ON BATTERY BOX; FOR GROUND-TO-GROUND AND GROUND-TO-AIR COMMUNICATION. FOL AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT: 20 EA WHIP ANTENNA AS-3027/URC-87 (V); 20 EA DIPOLE ANTENNA AS-3028/U; 20 EA CARRYING BAG SC-130 BC; 20 EA CARRYING RAC SC-130 RC; 20 EA HAND SET H-189/GR; 10 EA TELEPHONE KEY KY-802/URC-87(V); 10 EA POWER SUPPLY CHARGER PP-7079/AN/URC-87(V); 10 EA CONNECTING LEAD SC-130 CL; 60 EA BATTERY SET BB-697/U; 10 EA BATTERY CHARGER PP-7080/U; 10 EA HAND GENERATOR G-74/U; PLUS FACTORY-RECOMMENDED INITIAL SPARES FOR ABOVE ITEMS FOR TWO YEARS. FYI THE GUB SELECTED URC-87 OVER VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT IS EXPECTED TO BE LESS VULNERABLE TO MONITORING BY TRAFFICKING/INSURGENT GROUPS.

(D) ALSO FOR USE BY SAME PATROLS, FOL NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT: 10 EA HAND-HELD OR STAND-MOUNTED PORTABLE LONG-RANGE NIGHT OBSERVATION DEVICES FOR SURVEILLANCE; 100 EA WEAPON-MOUNTED NIGHT VISION DEVICES. ORDER OF PREFERENCE FOR LATTER WOULD BE: (I) SMITH & WESSON STAR-TRON MK 303-A WITH EYEGUARD; (II) AN/PVS-2
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NIGHT VISION DEVICE; (III) AN/PVS-4 OBSERVATION TELESCOPE FOR NIGHT SURVEILLANCE. WEAPON-MOUNTED DEVICES PREFERABLY TO BE TAPPED FOR ANY MAKE OF RIFLE; IF THIS IS NOT FEASIBLE THOSE THAT CAN BE MOUNTED ON STANDARD U.S. WEAPONS SUCH AS M30 CARBINE WOULD BE PREFERRED.

5. GUB WISHES ALSO TO ACQUIRE INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY CAPABILITY

USING CAMERA TO BE MOUNTED IN FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT (PARA 4A ABOVE), TO INCLUDE EQUIPMENT FOR DEVELOPING AND PROCESSING FILM AND NECESSARY TRAINING. HOWEVER, NEITHER GUB NOR MISSION HAS TECHNICAL EXPERTISE ON TYPE OF EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD BE DESIRABLE. WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS DEPT MAY HAVE.

6. GUB PREFERENCE FOR F-27 OVER C-47 IS BASED ON FACT THAT FORMER HAS HIGHER CEILING AND CAN THUS OPERATE MORE EFFECTIVELY AND MORE SAFELY OVER MOUNTAINOUS SHAN PLATEAU WHERE BAF HAS LOST TWO C-47'S IN RECENT YEARS. AIRCRAFT FOR SURVEILLANCE OF TRAFFICKERS AND REFINERIES WILL NEED TO OPERATE AT ALTITUDES HIGH ENOUGH TO BE ABOVE CLOUD COVER. BAF HAS ADEQUATE MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY FOR EITHER F-27 OR C-47.

7. RELEVANCE TO NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT OF ITEMS ON GUB LIST IS APPARENT, AND THE OPERATIONAL CONCEPT WOULD EFFECTIVELY SUPPLEMENT THE HELICOPTERS WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO DELIVER. CONCEPT IS FOR SURVEILLANCE AND DETECTION BY FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT FOLLOWED BY INSERTION, USUALLY BY HELICOPTER, OF GROUND TROOPS IN LOCATIONS WHERE THEY CAN CAPTURE TC FFICKERS AND DESTROY OR INTERDICT REFINERIES, CARAVANS, AND (USUALLY LOWER PRIORITY) POPPY FIELDS.

8. AS DEPT AWARE, EXCHANGE OF NOTES OF JIBNE 29, 1974, IS NARROWLY LIMITED TO SUPPLY OF HELICOPTERS, AND AS IT STANDS WE ASSUME IT WOULD NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE BASIS FOR CONCLUSION OF A NEW PROAG FOR OTHER ITEMS. IF THIS ASSUMPTION CORRECT, SUGGEST MORE

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01

IO-03 OES-01 SY-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /040 W
----- 105031

P 291015Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9648

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 1410

LIMDIS

SATISFACTORY COURSE WOULD BE TO PROPOSE TO GUB AN AMENDMENT TO JUNE 29 EXCHANGE OF NOTES, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: BEGIN TEXT I
HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS

OF JUNE 29, 1974, CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE PROBLEM OF SUPPRESSING THE ILLEGAL CULTIVATION, PROCESSING, PRODUCTION, AND TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTICS DRUGS. PURSUANT TO FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, I HAVE THE HONOR TO PROPOSE THAT THE AGREEMENT OF JUNE 29, 1974, BE AMENDED BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE AT THE END OF THE UNNUMBERED INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH: QTE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS ALSO PREPARED TO PROVIDE OTHER EQUIPMENT FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF ILLEGAL CULTIVATION, PROCESSING, PRODUCTION, AND TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTICS DRUGS, AS AGREED UPON FROM TIME TO TIME, TO BE USED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE HELICOPTERS. UNQTE. IF THE FOREGOING IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SRUB, I PROPOSE THAT THIS NOTE AND YOUR EXCELLENCY'S REPLY SHOULD CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. END TEXT.

9. UPON CONCLUSION OF THIS NEW EXCHANGE OF NOTES, OR SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH IT, WE WOULD EXPECT TO AMEND PROAG 482-12-590-132 OF JUNE 29, 1974, TO COVER ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT.

10. REQUEST NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS ALONG FOREGOING LINES AND AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND PROAG.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, EQUIPMENT, DRUG TRAFFIC, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RANGOO01410
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750187-0978
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975059/aaaaahtha.tel
Line Count: 202
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 RANGOON 0800, 75 RANGOON 1375
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED SUPPLY OF ADDITIONAL NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT TO GUB
TAGS: SNAR, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006